



# Toledo Harbor Lighthouse Preservation Society

## Summer 2020 Newsletter

[www.toledolighthouse.org](http://www.toledolighthouse.org)

Toledo Harbor Lighthouse Society 1750 Park Rd. #2, Oregon, Ohio 43616

### TOLEDO LIGHTHOUSE MEETINGS 2020

Usually Last Thursday of each month @ 7 pm  
– virtual meetings through October – may be through end of year to share restoration updates

**Dedicate a Toledo Lighthouse Window or Stair Riser** to a loved one – Call Dan at 734-572-5813 for info.

### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Please help the lighthouse

**Kroger Community Rewards.** Sign up on line-no loss of gas points. There is a new number that can be accessed online

### Help the Lighthouse

Please donate your empty brand name ink cartridges

Email Sandy to get cartridges at [sandylakeerie@aol.com](mailto:sandylakeerie@aol.com)

## TOLEDO LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION BEGINNING

Together we can do great things.

Thank you! The restoration will start in August 2020! The \$638,000 project was bid by ODOT and Lucas County in early spring of 2020. There were four bids. The winning bidder is Buckeye Construction and Restoration, Waterford, Ohio. The project includes installing windows and shutters on the first floor (windows and shutters previously purchased by Toledo Lighthouse Society) and purchasing and installing windows and shutters for the second floor. Also, the project includes the doors and tucking the bricks on both floors. This will truly transform the appearance of the Toledo Lighthouse and allow light to the first store that has been blocked by cement blocks in the windows since 1989.

The project is funded by a O.D.O.T. \$500,000 grant with a \$138,000 match from the Toledo Lighthouse Society via a loan. Cleveland Cliffs has provided a \$20,000 grant to reduce the match loan leaving a loan amount of \$118,000 from Genoa Bank. The project is administered by Lucas County. The O.D.O.T. grant comes from the federal government and is required to meet federal grant requirements. Thanks to O.D.O.T., Lucas County, T.M.A.C.O.G., Duket Architects, and Poggemeyer. It took a lot of individual efforts for this unusual lighthouse project.

Help the restoration by purchasing a memorial window or stair riser. Call Dan Hall for more details at 734-572-5813.

Join in the monthly virtual meetings to see the restoration progress. If you know of funding sources to continue the restoration please contact Sandy at 419-367-1691.

### VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION AUGUST 27 to SEPTEMBER 11 FOR THE TOLEDO LIGHTHOUSE CONDUCTED BY PAMELA ROSE

The Toledo Lighthouse Silent Auction has been a favorite for festival attendees. Instead of hosting the silent auction at the festival, to raise funds for the restoration, there will be a virtual silent auction for the lighthouse. Gifts cards and other items are needed. Information enclosed.

### 50-50 RAFFLE – TICKETS ENCLOSED DRAWING SEPTEMBER 6

Tickets are enclosed, and they are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. The average past winning has been about \$1,000. Checks should be made to the Toledo Lighthouse Society and sent to Toledo Lighthouse Society 1750 Park Rd.#2, Oregon, Ohio 43616. Thanks for any tickets you may purchase and/or to help the lighthouse.

### Dear Lighthouse Member/Supporter:

*All of us have been impacted in so many ways by the COVID-19 virus. Hoping you and your family and friends are safe and doing well in these challenging times.*

*Sadly, we have cancelled the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Toledo Lighthouse Festival, that we had postponed from July to Labor Day weekend in the hopes that the virus would flatten and get better. The opposite happened, it got worse.*

*The festival is the Toledo Lighthouse main fundraiser. But also very important is the time when we come together to see and talk to each other about the lighthouse and our families and friends. It is seeing and talking to many of you, and others, who regularly attend the festival that I missed most this summer. I miss the many dedicated members and volunteers who work together to help at the festival each year on hot days, rainy days, rough waters, for the lighthouse.*

*So while we could not connect because of the virus in 2020, please know that you were missed, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2021 lighthouse festival. Your continued support for the lighthouse is sincerely appreciated.*

*Sandy Bihn, President*

## **Toledo Lighthouse History – Another Historic Milestone in 2020**

The unique Romanesque buff brick Toledo Lighthouse is a historic lighthouse gem. The lighthouse was dedicated May 23, 1904 and provided accommodations for a lighthouse keeper and two assistants. The Toledo Lighthouse replaced the Turtle Island lighthouse built in 1823 and is located on the straightened Toledo shipping channel at the intersection of Maumee Bay and Lake Erie. The lighthouse is 72' high topped off with a three floor circular staircase to the lantern that used to contain a 3.5 order Fresnel lens. There has also been, what is commonly known as a fog horn, signaling boaters in hazy conditions. In the 1930's lighthouse keepers changed from the Department of Interior to the U.S. Coast Guard. In 1966 an electric motor was installed and the lighthouse was no longer manned. Vandalism was a problem and one of the deterrents was putting Sarah, the lighthouse phantom in the window to give the illusion that someone was in the lighthouse. Vandalism continued and by the late 1980's there was a proposal to destroy the lighthouse, as had been done with the Manhattan range lights. US Lighthouse supporters objected and in 1989, the U.S. Coast Guard – secured the lighthouse at a cost of \$1 million by protecting the crib, putting boulders on three of the four sides, putting a steel wall for access and putting cement block windows in the first floor and plexiglass in the other windows. The all-volunteer 501c3 Toledo Lighthouse Preservation Society was formed in 2004 and took deed to the lighthouse in 2008. Restoration plans and specifications were completed by 2010 at a cost of over \$100,000 helped with a grant from the Lake Erie Commission. A dock/lift/platform were installed in 2012 but storms disengaged them. Now in August 2020, the lighthouse restoration begins. It is an exciting time for all of us who are dedicated to the preservation of the lighthouse. Our long-term goal is to have four people (members have priority) stay at the lighthouse for a week or some period of time to be lighthouse keepers and welcome visitors to tour the lighthouse from May through September. The restoration has begun – may we find funding to complete the restoration. The Toledo Lighthouse will be a destination for tourists from around the world and is a positive beacon for Lake Erie.

## **Toledo Lighthouse Keeper James Albert Stevens**

Through the years, the Toledo Lighthouse Society has been contacted by former lighthouse keepers. It is always great to hear the stories of times spent in the lighthouse and the challenges faced. Most recently the wife of James Albert Stevens, who served in the United States Coast Guard from August 1960 to 1966 as an Engineman Second Class and was stationed on the Toledo Lighthouse in 1961 contacted us. For his birthday, his wife bought him a window where his bedroom was on the third floor of the lighthouse. The family, who lives in Oklahoma, loves listening to his lighthouse stories! They are looking forward to the restoration of the lighthouse and plan to visit in the near future. We have invited Keeper Stevens to share his Toledo Lighthouse memories at the Toledo Lighthouse Festival in 2021. (He was invited in 2020 but...)

## **SEE THE TOLEDO LIGHTHOUSE VIA THE VIEWER NEAR THE MARINA AT THE LODGE AT MAUMEE BAY STATE PARK**

The viewer costs 50 cents and will allow you to see the lighthouse, located five miles off shore, much closer. In addition, you may be able to see the original 3.5 order Fresnel Lens located in the Nature Center at Maumee Bay State Park. O.D.N.R. is doing a great job of displaying the Fresnel Lens. Check hours at the Nature Center to see if they are open. Anyone seeing the lens or observing the lighthouse from the shore can get a Toledo Lighthouse stamp. Email [sandylakeerie@aol.com](mailto:sandylakeerie@aol.com) for information.

## **'My Toledo Lighthouse Step' or My Lighthouse Window places you/your family's name permanently in the Toledo Lighthouse – funds will help with Restoration**

A plaque with your name on one of nearly 100 steps in the Toledo Lighthouse. Range of costs for dedicated steps is \$350 to \$700. Please email or call Dan at 734-572-5813, email [dhalloh@comcast.net](mailto:dhalloh@comcast.net).

## **SAVE DATE FESTIVAL 2021 July 9 & 10**

The 2021 Festival will be held July 9 & 10 at Maumee Bay State Park. We look forward to sharing the restoration. We also look forward to the artists and crafters, food, music and more in 2021.

## **VIRTUAL LIGHTHOUSE PRESENTATION – SPEAKER – OTHER INFORMATION**

Schedule a presentation by calling Sandy at 419-691-3788, email [sandylakeerie@aol.com](mailto:sandylakeerie@aol.com) or text 419-367-1691.

For membership, window or step information call Dan at 734-572-5813 or email to [dhalloh@comcast.net](mailto:dhalloh@comcast.net)

Toledo Lighthouse Society is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501c3 organization to promote and restore the Toledo lighthouse. Members get updates and newsletters on the Toledo Lighthouse. The restored Toledo Lighthouse will have four 'keepers' that will be at the lighthouse in season to welcome boaters and tourists. A restored Toledo Lighthouse will be positive for Lake Erie and an economic boost to the region.

☎ Toledo Lighthouse Society 1750 Park Road #2 Oregon, Ohio 43616 toledolighthouse.org  
For presentations 419-691-3788 sandylakeerie@aol.com  
Toledo Lighthouse Society is an all volunteer organization to promote and restore the lighthouse.  
For membership and window information call Dan at 734-780-7282 dhalloh@comcast.net

Pictures from James Woodward, Lampist

